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Item 3 (j) of the provisional agenda
Items for discussion and decision: big data

Document E/CN.3/2021/14 – Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

Statement provided by:
Mr. Geir Axelsen, Director General, Statistics Norway

Statement:
Norway acknowledges and supports the work of the task teams. The described initiatives are interesting and important for the further development of big data for official statistics. We welcome the creation of the task team of SDG and will follow its work with interest. Norway will contribute to the promotion of the platform and the hubs for training and project activities. In particular, we will distribute information about and encourage the use of the platform and its services in ongoing and planned projects and activities with institutes from partner countries in our technical development cooperation programmes. Norway endorses the community model as a funding strategy for the platform. The creation of a finance committee to explore possibilities and develop a funding model is promising. We suggest that requests for funding are made as specific as possible, particularly when it comes to financial support. Funding of initiative from an NSO will necessarily compete with national demands. From our perspective, prioritizing international initiatives like the global platform is more likely when plans, goals and gains are well described. Big data challenge traditional methods of collection, processing and analysis. For the global statistical community there is great potential in this development. However, the exploitation of these new data sources, depend on a broad knowledge of suitable methods in the statistical communities. Norway thus encourages and supports the suggested global program on training and certification in the use of Big Data and data science for official statistics. Norway endorses the re-naming of the global working group to UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics and recognizes that this is in alignment with naming of the various expert groups under the Statistical Commission.

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